

**PATENT APPLICATION**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of

Giovanni TRAVERSO

Attorney Docket Q65519

Appln. No.: Not Assigned

Group Art Unit: Not Assigned

Confirmation No.: Not Assigned

Examiner: Not Assigned

Filed: July 25, 2001

For: VIRTUAL CONCATENATION OF OPTICAL CHANNELS IN WDM NETWORKS

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**Please enter the following amended claims:**

5. (Amended) A method according to claim 2, wherein the additional step is provided of calculating the possible differences between the concatenation byte value of the reference frame and the concatenation byte value of the remaining  $n-1$  frames, multiplying such possible differences by the frame period  $T$  and adding the value obtained to the respective time differences  $t$ .